

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-48. (canceled)

49 (currently amended): In a gaming machine having a master gaming controller and at least one other gaming device, a method of operating said gaming machine comprising:

providing a main communication board adapted to facilitate communication via various communications formats, said main communication board having a plurality of standard receptor slots;

providing power to said main communication board via a first power connection;

providing a first daughter board in a first standard receptor slot of said main communication board, said first daughter board adapted to convert signals sent from the master gaming controller in a first communications format to signals in a second communications format for transmission to said other gaming device or along a gaming machine network;

providing power to said first daughter board via a second power connection;

switching off power through said first power connection to said main communication board; and

maintaining power to said first daughter board via said second power connection during said step of switching off power through said first power connection to said main communication board;

providing a second daughter board in a second standard receptor slot of the main communication board, said second daughter board adapted to convert signals sent from the master gaming controller to signals in a third communications format for

transmission to said other gaming device, another gaming device, or along a gaming machine network;

providing power to said second daughter board via a third power connection;

switching off power through said second power connection to said first daughter board;

maintaining power to said second daughter board via said third power connection during said step of switching off power through said second power connection to said first daughter board; and

replacing said first daughter board with a third daughter board in said first standard receptor slot of the main communication board.

50. (canceled)

51 (new): The method of claim 49, wherein said third power connection is provided from said main communication board through said second standard receptor slot.

52 (new): The method of claim 51, wherein said third power connection provided through said second standard receptor slot is necessarily switched off when power is switched off through said first power connection.

53 (new): The method of claim 49, wherein said third daughter board is adapted to convert signals sent from the master gaming controller to signals in a fourth communications format for transmission to said other gaming device, yet another gaming device, or along a gaming machine network.

54 (new): The method of claim 49, further including the step of:

switching power through said second power connection back on to said third daughter board after said third daughter board is placed in said first standard receptor slot.

55 (new): The method of claim 49, further including the step of:

providing a fourth daughter board in a third standard receptor slot of the main communication board, said fourth daughter board adapted to convert signals sent from the master gaming controller to signals in a fourth communications format for transmission to said other gaming device, another gaming device, or along a gaming machine network.

56 (new): The method of claim 55, wherein each of said first, second, third and fourth communications formats is selected from the group consisting of RS-422/485, Fiber Optic, RS-232, DCS Current Loop, Link Progressive Current Loop and USB.

57 (new): The method of claim 49, wherein each of said first, second and third communications formats is selected from the group consisting of RS-422/485, Fiber Optic, RS-232, DCS Current Loop, Link Progressive Current Loop and USB.

58 (new): The method of claim 49, wherein said main communication board is adapted to facilitate communications via a different communications format at each of said plurality of standard receptor slots.

59 (new): The method of claim 49, wherein said main communication board contains at least four standard receptor slots.